

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A control system for a work machine comprising:
an operator actuatable input assembly;
a sensor coupled to the input assembly and
configured to provide a signal indicative of
operator presence on an operator platform;
a controller operably coupled to the sensor and
configured to receive the signal provided by
the sensor, the controller further
configured to manipulate a function of the
work machine based on the signal.
2. The control system of claim 1, wherein the input
assembly comprises:
a mounting bracket; and
an armrest pivotally coupled to the mounting
bracket at a pivot point.
3. The control system of claim 2, wherein the
armrest includes a magnet.
4. The control system of claim 3, wherein the
armrest is in an operating position if the magnet is
in close proximity to the sensor.
5. The control system of claim 4, wherein the
armrest is perpendicular to the mounting bracket and
parallel to the operator platform in the operating
position.

6. The work machine of claim 3, wherein the armrest is in a non-operating position if the magnet is out of proximity from the sensor.

7. The control system of claim 5, wherein the armrest is pivoted in a direction upwards from the operating position when the armrest is in the non-operating position.

8. The control system of claim 3 and further comprising a spring coupled to the armrest and configured to bias the armrest to an operating position and a non-operating position.

9. The control system of claim 1, wherein the sensor comprises a magnetic sensor.

10. The control system of claim 9, wherein the magnetic sensor comprises a Hall-effect sensor.

11. The control system of claim 1, wherein the at least one function is enabled and disabled by the controller.

12. A work machine comprising:
a rigid frame;

a cab coupled to the rigid frame and defining an operator compartment, the operator compartment including an operator platform;
a mounting bracket coupled to a portion of the operator platform;
an armrest pivotally coupled to the mounting bracket at a pivot point; and
a sensor included in the mounting bracket, the sensor configured to sense operator presence on the operator platform and configured to provide a signal indicative thereof.

13. The work machine of claim 12 and further comprising a controller operably coupled to the sensor and configured to receive the signal provided by the sensor, wherein the controller manipulates at least one function of the work machine based on the received signal.

14. The work machine of claim 13, wherein the at least one function enables and disables the controller.

15. The work machine of claim 12, wherein the sensor senses operator presence on the operator platform if the armrest is configured in an operating position.

16. The work machine of claim 12, wherein the sensor senses an empty operator platform if the armrest is configured in a non-operating position.

17. The work machine of claim 12, wherein the armrest includes a magnet.

18. The work machine of claim 17, wherein the armrest is configured in an operating position if the magnet is in close proximity to the sensor.

19. The work machine of claim 18, wherein the armrest is configured in a non-operating position if the magnet is out of proximity from the sensor.

20. The work machine of claim 12 and further comprising a spring coupled to the armrest and configured to bias the armrest in an operating position and a non-operating position.